

*“Enter his gates with
thanksgiving and his courts
with praise; give thanks to him
and praise his name.”
Psalm 100:4*



November
2016

The News

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Skeptic, Seeker, Believer, Disciple, Apostle

by Pastor Rich McDermott

Renewal leader Terry Fullam once said, "If your people believe that a church consists primarily of a minister who ministers and a congregation that congregates, they will forever remain in a state of spiritual infancy." How true it is. In the 1950's and '60's churches thrived on models that seemed appropriate to the time: large numbers of people gathering for worship and Sunday School, and perhaps an evening prayer meeting or Bible study on Sunday or Wednesday or both. For two or three decades there was little need to change the basic format. Attendance remained strong for churches that worked hard at a quality worship experience and had some solid teaching for children. Millions of devoted Christians gave countless hours to the Lord's ministry in their local church, and most churches knew the importance of supporting "mission work" internationally, nationally and locally. Today, our world is a richer place for those in that time who faithfully followed Christ and gave of themselves as spouses, parents, church leaders, pastors and missionaries, and the fruit of their labor is a foundation on which we depend today.

But somewhere along the way, the sense of God's calling to every Christian was diluted. The "*priesthood of all believers*" and the "*ministry of all Christians*" got lost. At some point, worship became something out of which I just wanted to "*get something*." We stopped simply attending our local church, and we became experts at "*church shopping*." We ceased answering God's call to mission and discipleship, and instead became expert "*consumers of religious goods and services*." A variety of church growth gurus preached the need to address the "*felt needs*" of those who might attend. We heard of a need to be "*seeker sensitive*," but did little about it. We mainline Protestants became very comfortable with our own group, our own worship, our own theology, our own tradition, our own routine, our own community, our own style and our own culture. As the influence of Jesus Christ and the church waned in the lives of the people, the community and the culture, many began to look elsewhere for meaning and purpose in their lives. And the spiritual infancy of churches began to take a toll on the vibrancy of Christ's Church in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Chris Campbell and I are excited about shepherding FPCA to reverse this long trend, and enabling our church to grow in spiritual maturity in Christ. We desire to see not only our church members, but many outside our fellowship move along the path from *skeptic* to *seeker* to *believer* to *disciple* to *apostle*. And YOU will be the ones to make it happen. We have a number of skeptics in our midst, who really don't believe the essence of the gospel message. We want to give them opportunity to ask and answer questions and become a genuine seeker. From there, learning to trust in Jesus is what makes one a believer. A believer who is serious then begins to understand and follow Jesus, which is the core of being a disciple. As a disciple listens to the call of Jesus, that person joins God's mission and is sent out by the Lord as an apostle.

This is a change from business as usual. It will require that we focus on Christ and give of our time, commitment, prayer, hard work, serious ministry, financial resources, faith, hope and love. Our Stewardship Commitment Sunday is November 13, when we will come forward to commit ourselves anew to Jesus Christ and his missional call to each one of us. We are praying for our best Stewardship Commitment ever, with many growing to give a tithe or more of their income. Will you prayerfully consider joining us in this endeavor for God's kingdom and the glory of the Lord? You will not regret it.

I Am N Study

by Pastor Chris Campbell

This fall, I have enjoyed facilitating a class with the Foundations Sunday school class. It is called *I Am N* and is published by the Voice of the Martyrs.

When Islamic State (ISIS) militants moved into northern Iraq, they began identifying Christian-owned property with the Arabic letter ن (nun) or “n” painted on homes, businesses and churches. This single letter conveyed the powerful accusation that the occupants were people who followed Jesus of Nazareth rather than Islam. To be labeled “n” in a community dominated by Muslim extremists is a life-changing identity.

Since 2003, more than two-thirds of the 1.5 million Christians who lived in Iraq have fled, emigrated, or been killed. Many families have lost loved ones. Some families have known when their loved ones died and were able to bury them. Other families have no idea if their loved ones are dead; they have simply disappeared. These losses are very difficult to bear, yet our fellow Christians persevere.

Each week, we watch a brief DVD clip of Christians in Iraq sharing their experiences of persecution at the hands of ISIS. The themes of sacrifice, courage, joy, perseverance, forgiveness, and faithfulness are explored through discussion and reflection. It has challenged us as individuals to think, “What would I do? How would I respond if I were in those circumstances?” We have also been challenged to explore how we can help.

To say, “I Am N” is a declaration and commitment to remember, to pray for, and to stand with persecuted Christians everywhere. This is not a class to delve into partisan politics, but instead learn about the lives and sacrifices made in the midst of unbelievable circumstances. If your Sunday school class would like to take up this six-week study, please let me know. It would be an honor to share these experiences with your class.

Alzheimer’s Walk Participation

On Saturday, October 1, members of FPCA participated in the Arlington Walk to End Alzheimer’s. It was a beautiful day and a successful event!



Bible Wordsearch

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 253 Matt 10:21-33

R	E	T	S	A	M	D	T	F	N	R	I	S	Y	N
B	S	N	E	H	E	S	I	H	S	E	U	P	D	E
E	U	A	O	S	T	N	F	S	G	T	D	G	O	V
T	O	V	T	U	I	U	A	A	F	I	A	D	B	A
R	H	R	D	S	O	M	R	F	T	O	L	N	I	E
A	O	E	H	W	D	B	C	T	R	H	O	Y	D	H
Y	N	S	O	E	N	E	L	H	D	A	E	R	A	S
T	J	R	L	W	R	R	R	E	I	U	I	R	M	D
D	T	L	O	E	E	E	G	E	A	L	E	D	E	T
H	A	S	H	H	D	H	E	B	R	D	E	M	P	
C	I	T	C	I	T	I	E	S	A	E	S	R	B	E
D	A	A	P	R	O	C	L	A	I	M	L	I	E	N
R	E	H	A	I	R	S	D	N	U	O	R	G	R	N
T	R	A	P	A	B	R	P	A	R	E	N	T	S	Y
T	H	S	W	O	R	R	A	P	S	D	E	V	A	S

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

_ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

AFRAID	BROTHER
APART	CHILDREN
BETRAY	DAYLIGHT
BODY	DESTROY
CALLED	DISOWN
CITIES	GROUND
FATHER	HEAVEN
FINISH	HIDDEN
HAIRS	MASTER
HOUSE	MEMBERS
ISRAEL	NUMBERED
PENNY	PARENTS
REBEL	PROCLAIM
ROOFS	RATHER
SAVED	SERVANT
STANDS	SPARROWS
TRUTH	STUDENT
WORTH	TEACHER

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Answer on page 6

Thanksgiving Dinner

Come one, come all to the annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Team will provide meat and dessert.

If your last name starts with:

- A through G Bring potatoes or dressing
- H through O Bring a vegetable
- P through Z Bring a salad

Other Important November Dates and Times

Sunday, November 6, 12:00 noon

Stewardship dinner in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.

Festival of Church Music, Meyerson Symphony Center

Sunday, November 13

Thanksgiving baskets due

Saturday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.

Frozen Turkey Olympics (youth)

Sunday, November 27

Advent begins



Festival of Tables

The annual Festival of Tables will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, in Fellowship Hall. Tickets (\$3 each) will be available on November 6, 13, and 20 at the church.

To make this a successful event, hostess volunteers are needed now. So, what does a hostess do? A hostess sets a table, using her best, favorite, or Christmas china, provides a centerpiece of some sort, and perhaps adds a special tablecloth or runner. She also provides a dessert. Many hostesses work with a friend or sister or mother or daughter and split the responsibilities. It is creative fun and a chance to use all those special, holiday items.

Please contact Bev Koch at 817-261-3202 with any questions or to volunteer.

Youth Activities

Greetings from the youth ministry! The last few months have been amazing and I am just in awe at all the Lord is doing with our youth.

In September, we started up The Well again, and we have had a good number of youth attend. What's been most encouraging is the way our youth come ready to hear the word of God. They have also been open to share how the Lord is working in their lives and have asked some tough questions. To see their vulnerability and desire to learn more about the Lord is simply amazing!

In October, the Lord has continued to show up in amazing ways. During this month, we had the opportunity to take the youth out for some fun and crazy paintball. It was great to see



youth get an opportunity to relieve some of the stress of their lives by just getting some time to laugh, smile, and have fun with their friends. I truly believe the Lord creates these moments for youth to see that as Christians we can still have fun.

Also in October, the youth had their first Youth Sunday worship service. What a worship experience it was for our youth. To see our youth worship the Lord was such a beautiful picture! These are just some of the awesome things the Lord is doing with our youth. I look forward to seeing what the Lord will do in the future.

Please pray for our youth and their continued growth in the Lord. They are a great group of kids and they really want to grow in their relationship with the Lord. Thank you advance for your prayers and support for our youth!

In Christ,

Adrian Rodriguez



Kids' Corner

Preschool Sunday School

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! And how about a “happy we’re thankful for you” to the rest of our friends out there - because without you we couldn’t do what we do.

This month we’re helping preschoolers learn to say thank you for the people who help them. And there are a lot of people who help preschoolers.

First, there’s family. Family is like at the top of the list! Our preschool friends will hear how Aaron helped his brother Moses this month. Then, there are community helpers all around us who help us just as Nehemiah’s community helped him rebuild the wall.

There are all kinds of other people helping preschoolers by giving them what they need - people like you! You give them hugs, snacks, and best of all, God’s true stories. We need all kinds of people to help us. Elisha got some great help from a woman who prepared an entire room for him.

And last but not least - friends. Preschoolers need friends. You and I need friends. We all need friends! Friends help us have fun, do what’s right and they come in handy when we forget our snack. I’m pretty sure Elijah was thankful for his new friend, the widow, when she shared her food.

Our preschoolers need help, tons and tons of help. And, we want them to grow up with eyes that see the people who help them, and a heart that says thanks. That’s the goal this month.

Elementary Sunday School

Honor is a response to the character of God.

Chances are if you have kids in sports or competitions of any kind, you have a growing collection of ribbons and medals, sashes and badges, certificates, trophies, or plaques. Some might hang on your walls or sit propped up on shelves somewhere. But if we’re honest, others get stuffed into a drawer and eventually thrown out. These were so important when they first came into our homes, but at some point they just lost their value. All those awards and medals can only mean so much, because honor has a deeper meaning.

People should not just be honored because of what they do; they should primarily be honored because of who they are. Stuff will lose value over time, but not people. At its core, honor is seeing people the way God sees people. We’re naturally wired to put ourselves first, but honor is the opposite of self-centeredness. It is something that flows from your relationship with God. In a sense, one of the best ways we can HONOR God, is by honoring those who reflect the image of God.

Throughout Scripture we see how much God loves us:

- He created us in His image.
- He knows the number of hairs on our heads.
- We are fearfully and wonderfully made.
- He pursued a relationship with us even when we wanted nothing to do with Him.
- He sent His only Son to pay for our sins to make an eternal relationship with Him possible.
- And He did all of this for us without us even asking.

Jesus was the ultimate example of someone who showed others their value.

When Jesus came here, He showed us how to love and show honor to those around us. He taught us to love our enemies, care for the “least of these,” and become the servants of all who puts others’ needs before our own.

That’s why it’s important for us to help our kids and families discovery more about **honor - letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.**

Our memory verse for November comes from Romans 12. Throughout the chapter, Paul casts a vision for the church and how they can live as people transformed by God’s Holy Spirit. In **Romans 12:10**, we read, **“Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves.” (NIrV)** As kids memorize this verse, we hope they understand that honor includes seeing others as God sees them. When kids start doing that, they will be more willing to show God’s love to others and put their needs ahead of their own.

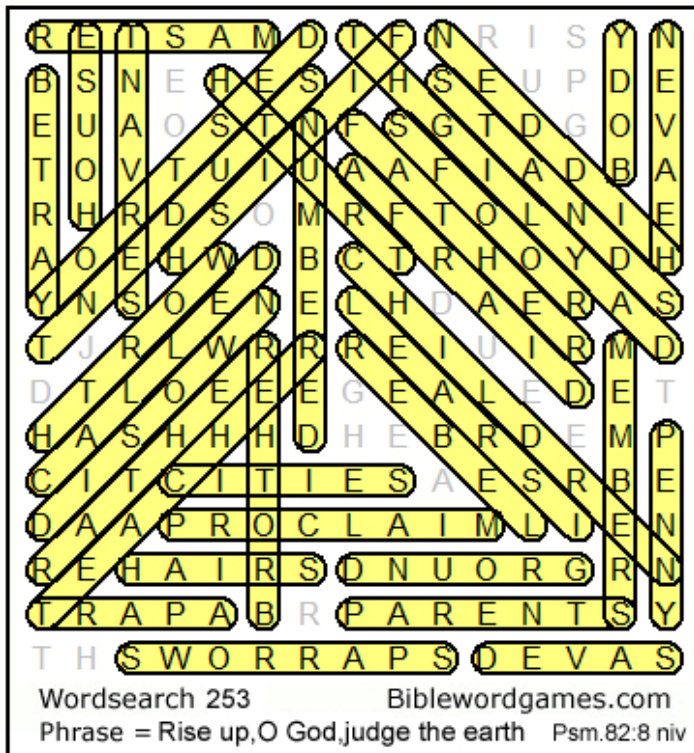
Kids Night Out and Strengthening Your Family

- November 11 and 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- December 2 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Parenting Center will offer classes during Kids Night Out to help equip parents in strengthening families. The classes will cover topics such as positive discipline, communication, and establishing values.

Kids Night Out begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:20. Classes will run from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. with both an English class and a Spanish class each night.

Total cost for all the classes is \$20. Scholarships are available. Please contact Kyle at 817-274-8268 or kyle@firstprestexas if you have any questions.



This Month

Bible Studies



Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the parlor. Men of all ages meet to study the book of Genesis along with great fellowship and a prayer session. All men are invited to join this study.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible study is open to all women. The next meeting is Monday, November 21, at 6:00 p.m. in the parlor.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Bride's Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. The current study is *Twelve Ordinary Men* by John MacArthur.

Music Ministries



Chancel Choir

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir, it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Nursery care is provided during rehearsals.*

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This intergenerational handbell group rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Russell Farnell (fpcamusic@yahoo.com or 817-274-8286).

Agape (Youth) Choir

This group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the choir room. This year the focus of our youth choir is to engage singers at Carter Junior High by inviting them to participate in the YouthCue Choir Festival in Waco. This is a combined choir of 300+ singers from all over Texas and surrounding states. The festival is February 24 to 26, and ends with a grand concert on Sunday, February 26.

Children's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet Sundays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., during the school year. These choirs strive to impart God's love through His gift of music. The focus is on ministry to children rather than on performance. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through grade 5 participate in activities including music/singing and bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. There are two sections, divided by age, and both participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.

Church Leadership



Deacon Meeting

Thursday, November 3, at 6:00 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, November 3, at 6:45 p.m., all teams meet for worship in the chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in the parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

Discipleship



Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome. No particular skill is required, the work is easy, and we always have a good time as we process books to be added to our inventory. If you would like to be involved in library work but cannot come at that evening time, please contact Sandy Thomlinson and special daytime work sessions can be arranged.

Fellowship



Happy Quilters

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

Saints Alive!

Church seniors will meet for a potluck lunch on Thursday, November 17, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

Contact Bev Koch (817-261-3202) for details.

**First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010**

Deadline for the December issue of The News is November 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Esther Albright, Chona Pacot Anwar, David Boice, Shirley Bragg, Carl Carpenter, Crystal Castaneda, Kevin Chin, Jerry Colleps, Lee Carol Copeland, Dorothy Curtis, Ted Dysart, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Nadine Freeman, David Goff, Susan Graham, Dick Haney, Margery Harrand, Edna and Ken Harris, Brandon Hay, Bill Hayden, Doyle Malone, Allen Miller, Mary Ellen Miller, Pat Mingle, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Bill Olsen, Jim L. Quick, Albert Ross, Eulabel Sheldon, Linda Smith, Brooks and Connie Taylor, B. J. Thomas (Rev. Larry Thomas' wife), Jerry Thomas, Allen Underwood, Jessica Villarreal, and Mary Jane Wright.

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Aaron Alonso, Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Jack Murtha, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace.

Pray for our homebound members.

Pray for those who do not know Christ!

Please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at the church office at 817-274-8286 if you have any congregational care needs. For questions about specific concerns of those listed above, please contact Juanice Young at juanicey@gmail.com or 817-794-5626.